

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KINSHA 01828 041244Z

50 L

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-05 OPIC-03

XMB-02 EB-07 L-02 NSC-05 INR-07 CIAE-00 SP-02 PM-03

DODE-00 /055 W

----- 009864

R 041155Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1551

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 1828

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CG FR MASS

SUBJECT: MIRAGES

REF: STATE 035060

1. HAVING NOTED REFERENCE PARA 4 REFTTEL TO POSSIBLE
CHANGES IN GOZ PLANS RE MIRAGE PURCHASE, I TOOK OPPORTUNITY
RECENT LENGTHY DISCUSSION WITH FRENCH AMBASSADOR ROSS
TO RAISE QUESTION DIRECTLY.

2. ROSS REPLIED HE HAD OF COURSE NOTED AMBIGUOUS REFERENCE TO MIRAGES
IN PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH LAST NOVEMBER (KINSHASA A-222, DEC 6, 1974)
BUT HAD

DECIDED TACTICALLY IT BETTER TO LET MATTER LIE. HE HAD HEARD
NOTHING FROM GOZ INDICATING ANY CHANGE IN THEIR THINKING. ON
THE CONTRARY, RECENT MEETING OF FRENCH MILITARY MISSION,
WHICH IS BUILDING UP HERE TO HANDLE MIRAGE PROGRAM, WITH
GOZ DEFENSE OFFICIALS HAD RESULTED IN REAFFIRMATION OF
EXISTING PLANS AND COMMITMENTS. HE SAID FRANCE PLANNED
TO DELIVER SIXTEEN MIRAGES, INCLUDING TWO FOR USE IN
PILOT TRAINING, APPARENTLY IN FRANCE. HE EXPRESSED
SOME CONCERN THAT PRESENT FINANCIAL SITUATION MIGHT
MEAN PAYMENT DELAYS, BUT CONCLUDED THAT SINCE MOBUTU
HAD PRESSED FRANCE FOR SALE WISEST COURSE FOR GOF
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WAS TO PROCEED AS ORIGINALLY AGREED. HE

NOTED IN PASSING FRANCE COULD HAVE SOLD AIRCRAFT ELSE-
WHERE BUT HAD WISHED TO BE RESPONSIVE TO EXPRESSED
INTEREST OF MOBUTU.
HINTON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: buchandr
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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